

**REMARKS**

By this amendment, a replacement Abstract of the Disclosure has been provided for the last page of the application (page no. 22). The separate page for the Abstract of the Disclosure is enclosed herewith.

An amendment to the specification is also made to incorporate related application information and headings and subheadings.

Claims 16-30 are currently pending. The claims have been amended in order to conform them to U.S. practice. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments.

The examiner is respectfully requested to consider the above preliminary amendment prior to the examination of the application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of the Preliminary Amendment, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should be charged to our deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: September 8, 2006

By:   
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Reg. No. 25,961

Attachment: Abstract of the Disclosure

**IN THE ABSTRACT**

Replace the abstract originally provided on the cover sheet of the PCT application with the following new abstract. A new abstract page 22 is enclosed for the last page of the application following the claims.

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A method of phase modulating optical radiation by the steps of phase modulating the optical radiation by using a modulator having an extinction ratio in order to provide a multilevel phase shift key signal, and applying to each optical pulse a phase-shift having an absolute value depending on the extinction ratio and a sign depending, for each of the optical pulses, on the respective optical phase value. An apparatus implementing the method is also disclosed.